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## RRM CANADA DAILY BRIEF

### Key findings:

- RRM Canada did not observe any significant indicators of foreign state-sponsored information manipulation in its monitoring of the broader Canadian digital information ecosystem during the period of August 25.
- RRM Canada assesses the majority of content originated from recognizable Canadian news sites.
- Chinese Communist Party-backed media outlets reported on the LPC leader's announcement that Canadian troops may stay in Afghanistan past August 31<sup>st</sup>, but offered no commentary on the decision. The outlets did not comment on the election in their reports.
- High-profile figures in U.S. alternative media (including Jack Posobeic, Andy Ngo and Ben Shapiro) commented on LPC candidate Maryam Monsef's use of the word "brothers" in her appeal to the Taliban for safe passage to those who wish to leave Afghanistan. They did not link their comments to GE44, nor called on Canadians to vote for a specific candidate or party.

**Scan performed at:** 8:00PM, August 25, 2021

**Scan covers:** 9:00AM August 25, 2021 – 8:00PM August 25, 2021.

**Platform used:** Buzzsumo, Crowdtangle, Social Bearing, Tweetdeck, WeChat, Weibo

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Highest engagement numbers for English-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit<sup>1</sup>

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<a href="#">Justin Trudeau Vows Two-Year Ban on Foreign Home Buyers in Canada Election</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Bloomberg</i>	502	180	20.2K	20.9K
<a href="#">Canada's Justin Trudeau Pledges Two-Year Ban on Foreign Home Buyers</a>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>The Real Deal</i>	0	9	11.6K	11.7K
<a href="#">Vast majority of Canadians believe Trudeau could have waited a year until calling election seen as a 'power grab'</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>National Post</i>	3.9K	683	3.3K	7.9K
<a href="#">Trudeau promises new incentives worth billions and a tax on 'flipping' to help Canadians buy a home</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	3.9K	880	1.6K	6.4K
<a href="#">Opinion: O'Toole's GST holiday is the Christmas present our economy needs</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	6.1K	50	0	6.2K
<a href="#">NDP makes 'aggressive' push for progressive voters to ditch Trudeau for something new</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	974	89	4.2K	5.2K
<a href="#">Liberal Housing Plan to Criminalize Hardworking Families</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Ontario Realtors</i>	3.6K	395	7	4.0K
<a href="#">Liberals' Maryam Monsef calls Taliban 'our brothers'</a>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Toronto Sun</i>	1.7K	683	1.5K	3.9K
<a href="#">Trudeau vows 2-year ban on foreign homebuyers, end to blind bidding if re-elected</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Financial Post</i>	2.7K	40	1.2K	3.9K
<a href="#">O'Toole says he wants more private 'innovation' in health care but supports 'the system we have'</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>CBC News</i>	1.4K	935	543	2.9K

<sup>1</sup> Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian English-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Canadian Election" OR "Canadian Federal Election" OR "44th General Election" OR "GE44", "Bloc Quebecois" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Conservative Party of Canada" OR "The Conservatives", "Annamie Paul" OR "Green Party of Canada" OR "The Greens", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "Liberal Party of Canada" OR "The Liberals", "Maverick Party", "Maxime Bernier" OR "PPC" OR "People's Party", "New Democratic Party of Canada" OR "NDP" OR "Jagmeet Singh"

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Highest engagement numbers for French-language media on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit<sup>2</sup>

Article title	Date	Publisher	Facebook	Twitter	Reddit	Total engagement
<a href="#">La ministre fédérale des Femmes sème la polémique en parlant de «nos frères, les talibans»</a>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1.7K	152	80	2.0K
<a href="#">Voici l'enjeu prioritaire de 34 233 utilisateurs de la Boussole électorale</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	1.1K	87	146	1.4K
<a href="#">La majorité s'éloigne de plus en plus pour Justin Trudeau</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>TVA Nouvelles</i>	1.3K	4	0	1.3K
<a href="#">Achat d'une 1re maison au Canada : Trudeau présente son plan</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>NarCity</i>	1.1K	0	0	1.1K
<a href="#">Sondage: la majorité s'éloigne de plus en plus pour Justin Trudeau</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	1K	47	0	1.1K
<a href="#">La ministre fédérale des Femmes sème la polémique en parlant de «nos frères, les talibans»</a>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>Journal de Montréal</i>	831	147	63	1.0K
<a href="#">Logement   Trudeau dévoile une « charte des droits » pour les nouveaux acheteurs</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	948	24	56	1.0K
<a href="#">Troisième lien : Blanchet se dit « sensible » aux arguments des gens de la rive-sud</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>Radio-Canada</i>	937	4	13	954
<a href="#">Bernier accuse Trudeau et Legault de diviser la population</a>	Aug. 25, 2021	<i>La Tribune</i>	773	118	0	891
<a href="#">Troisième lien à Québec   Yves-François Blanchet « convaincu » que le projet peut être écologique</a>	Aug. 24, 2021	<i>La Presse</i>	562	162	127	851

<sup>2</sup> Engagement numbers reflect the stated reporting period. RRM Canada uses the following keywords to determine which news stories among Canadian French-language media outlets receive the most engagement: "Canada", "Élections fédérales" OR "Élections Canada", "Bloc Québécois" OR "Le Bloc" OR "Yves Blanchet" OR "Yves-François Blanchet", "Erin O'Toole" OR "Les conservateurs" OR "Parti conservateur du Canada", "Trudeau" OR "Justin Trudeau" OR "les libéraux" OR "Parti libéral du Canada", "Nouveau Parti démocratique" OR "Le NDP" OR "Le NDP du Canada" OR "Jagmeet Singh", "Annemie Paul" OR "Parti vert du Canada", "Maxime Bernier" OR "Parti populaire", "Le Parti maverick"

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Highest engagement numbers for on WeChat

Article Title <sup>3</sup>	Date	Account	Total engagement <sup>4</sup>
加拿大军队不撤? (No withdrawal of Canadian troops?)	Aug. 25, 2021	Reference News (state media)	63.5K
快讯! 特鲁多: 完全禁止外国人在加拿大买房, 已购房者征税! 温哥华, 多伦多楼市要崩? (Trudeau: Completely ban foreigners from buying houses in Canada, and tax those who have already bought a house! Will the Vancouver and Toronto housing markets collapse?)	Aug. 25, 2021	Canada Talks (local media)	47.0K
重磅! 杜鲁多宣布 7 大措施严打房市: 征收炒房税! 禁止外国人在加拿大买房! (Heavy! Trudeau announces 7 major measures to crack down on the housing market: a tax on speculation! Ban foreigners from buying homes in Canada!)	Aug. 25, 2021	51.ca (local media)	35.0K
特鲁多又承诺要大笔给钱了! 这次是福利买房者! 但炒房的要哭了 (Trudeau promises to give away big money! This time it's welfare for buyers! But housing speculators will cry)	Aug. 25, 2021	Superlife (local media)	26.0K
特鲁多: 加拿大军事人员准备在 8 月 31 日后留在阿富汗 (Trudeau: Canadian military personnel ready to stay in Afghanistan after August 31)	Aug. 25, 2021	People's Daily (state media)	16.6K
重磅! 加拿大缺钱了! 杜鲁多宣布加税: 每年多征\$25 亿! (Heavy! Canada is short on money! Trudeau announces a tax increase: \$2.5 billion more per year)	Aug. 25, 2021	51.ca (local media)	12.5K
12 架飞机, 超千名阿富汗难民入境加拿大, 不检查护照, 无新冠测试! 魁省将接受 300 难民! (12 plans, over a thousand Afghan refugees entering Canada, no passport checks, no COVID tests! Quebec will accept 300 refugees!)	Aug. 25, 2021	MTL New Media (local media)	11.0K
【有趣】向杜鲁多叫板? 加拿大共产党崛起党员数量激增...怎么莫名有点想笑... (Challenging Trudeau? The rise of the Canadian Communist Party...why do I inexplicably want to laugh...)	Aug. 25, 2021	Canada Today (local media)	4.3K
加拿大房市大变天? 特鲁多: 禁止外国人买房! 反炒房税! 竞价全透明! (Canada's housing market seeing a big change? Trudeau: Ban foreigners from buying homes! Anti-speculation taxes! Bidding in full transparency!)	Aug. 25, 2021	Ottawazine (local media)	3.9K
厉害了! 自由党出狠招: 若当选就禁止外国买家买房! 4 年新建 140 万套房 (Great! The LPC makes a tough move: if elected, they will ban foreigners from buying homes!)	Aug. 25, 2021	MTL New Media (local media)	1.8K

<sup>3</sup> Article titles translated by RRM Canada

<sup>4</sup> Total engagement numbers reflect the article's page views; WeChat does not calculate the number of comments an article receives

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#### User engagement with English-language online media

- A number of high-profile figures in U.S. alternative media commented on LPC candidate Maryam Monsef's use of the word "brothers" in her appeal to the Taliban for safe passage to those who wish to leave Afghanistan. Post Millennial editor Andy Ngo (894K followers) and Jack Posobiec (1.3M followers) tweeted the video without comment, while Ben Shapiro (3.5M followers) of the Daily Wire tweeted that Monsef's comments were "she-prehensible."
- The tweets by Posobiec, Ngo and Shapiro all received high engagement. Ngo's tweet alone received over 1.9K retweets, and over 5.5K total engagements (likes, shares and comments combined).
- None of the figures called on Twitter users to vote for a particular candidate, nor commented on GE44 in any manner.
- According to an [investigation](#) by *Rolling Stone*, Ngo has close links with the far-Right Patriot Prayer.
- Posobiec is known as one of the [main promoters](#) of the 2016 PizzaGate conspiracy theory. He was also a key player in [distributing](#) the 2017 Macron email leaks.
- The majority of English-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 25 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.
- With the NDP, LPC and CPC releasing their respective policy proposals to lower the cost of housing, a number of Canadian and U.S. real estate news organizations weighed in. Two articles on the topic (one from *The Real Deal*, a U.S. site, and one from Ontario Realtors, a Canadian lobby group) received high levels of engagement on Reddit and Facebook.

#### User engagement with French-language online media

- The majority of French-language stories shared on Facebook, Twitter and Reddit for the August 25 reporting period originated from recognizable Canadian media outlets.

#### User engagement with Sinophone online media

- Chinese Communist Party-backed media outlets reported on the LPC leader's announcement that Canadian troops may stay in Afghanistan past August 31<sup>st</sup>, but offered no commentary on the decision. The outlets did not comment on the election in their reports.
- The majority of Canadian political and election news on WeChat for the August 25 reporting period originated from recognizable Sinophone Canadian media outlets.

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